

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION**  
**APRIL 13, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Donald P. Berry, Sr. (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler and William D. Shorey. Also present was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau and EMA Director Dale Rowley.

**EMA REPORT:**

Present for this report was EMA Director Dale Rowley who presented the following:

1. A proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the County of Waldo and Town of Thorndike to transfer the radio repeater and an FCC license from the Town to the County. It had originally been funded by a federal grant. There is a small fee each year to insure it and the town was concerned about future maintenance. D. Rowley is also trying to get another repeater to assist in moving people off the same frequency that Dispatch uses, and there are no other options at this point. This additional repeater would provide another frequency for that purpose. There is grant funds available to obtain FCC licenses so this is a good time to get another repeater. Usually it is anywhere from \$100.00 to \$300.00 per license. The Commissioners signed the MOA.
2. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program Award: The County has been awarded funds in the amount of \$360,000.00 to build a new EOC building. This would allow the EMA Office to move out of the basement of the Jail. D. Rowley submitted draft floor plans and informed the Commissioners that he would like the building to be placed where the Jail garden is now. This has been discussed with the Sheriff and Jail Administrator. Once a designer has been found, the actual site location will need to be determined. There was brief discussion of putting this on the 100-acre County property, but development and running utility out there would be cost prohibitive for the money awarded this project. D. Rowley noted that the first place that floods is the EMA. Whenever the inmates send sheets and towels down the toilets, the resulting back-up permits sewage into the EMA. People who visit EMA constantly comment on the smell of methane. Water regularly comes through the ceiling tiles. D. Rowley explained that this is not conducive to a healthy office environment. Regarding a new building, he explained that water and sewer would need to be hooked up. The building would be a little bigger than the Communications Center. It would likely be stick-built. The design has been kept as simple as possible with good materials being used. This keeps costs down while providing good quality. D. Rowley reported that, of the \$33,002,500.00 Total Funding Awarded in 2009, \$21,000,000.00 was already earmarked for the State of Vermont. The remaining amount was competed for. D. Rowley felt that the next year would be spent mainly on paperwork and design. When asked why this would be such a complex building, D. Rowley explained that this was a public building, would have to meet various specifications, would have to go out to bid, and copies of the plans would have to go to a number of places in order to meet approval.
3. County Declared State of Emergency Policy Recommendation:  
D. Rowley submitted his proposal for a County Declared State of Emergency Policy, which included details for Disaster Declarations, Termination of Emergency, reimbursements, compensation of County Employees, etc. in the event of FEMA declared disasters and locally-declared emergencies. There was a component on the laws that was missing and D. Rowley said he would submit this to the Commissioners electronically. The need for such a proposal and the potential benefit to the County was discussed. D. Rowley felt it was timely and had started this process so the Commissioners could review it, make whatever changes they felt should be made, submit it to an attorney for review, etc. The Commissioners commended D. Rowley for his initiative.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Present for this report was Treasurer David A. Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, Sheriff Scott Story and Jail Administrator Jason Trundy. D. Parkman reported the following:

REVENUE: \$200,000.00 has been removed to show what has been brought in for revenue. The revenue is a little ahead, which is normal for this time of year at about 36%.

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

The Bottom line is 25% expended, so all is well in the budget at this point.

JAIL BUDGET: D. Parkman reported that the Jail budget was supposed to be at 50% expended with one payroll, and it is at 41%, so this is looking good. This is based on the six-month figure. D. Parkman said he did not know how things would be going after June. He asked when the State was expecting the remainder of the \$2.8 million the County was paying. S. Story explained that the County would submit a different budget and would continue to do business. Any money saved during this first six months would stay with the County. D. Parkman wondered how to handle this since the County is on a calendar year. He wondered how to pay the money toward the end of the year. S. Story said that he wasn't sure all those details had been worked out yet. D. Parkman asked S. Story to contact Scott Ferguson at the State and find out. S. Story recommended that K. Trussell do this directly, as she and S. Ferguson communicate on financial matters fairly regularly.

\$21,170.00 remains in the Jail account after this warrant. \$38,339.00 remains in the County's account. D. Parkman noted that the amount of the Tax Anticipation Note borrowed before this warrant was \$450,000.00, and after this warrant, it will be \$600,000.00, which he explained "is very good." \$300,000.00 of \$450,000.00 has been borrowed for the Jail.

D. Parkman read expenditures from the reserve accounts, and then the Commissioners voted on paying the warrants.

**WARRANTS:**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the March 27, 2009 Jail Accounts Payable in the amount of \$91,811.49. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the March 19, 2009 Jail Payroll in the amount of \$41,173.56. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the March 19, 2009 County Payroll in the amount of \$86,881.44. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the March 27, 2009 Capital/Active /Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$10,558.32. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the March 27, 2009 Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$196,605.92. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the April 13, 2009 Restricted Reserve Accounts warrant in the amount of \$6,070.89. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the April 13, 2009 Jail Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$27,205.29. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the April 2, 2009 Jail Payroll warrant in the amount of \$40,156.00. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the April 13, 2009 Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$53,303.72. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the April 2, 2009 County Payroll warrant in the amount of \$86,171.36. Unanimous.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded accepting the Treasurer's Report as presented. Unanimous.**

#### **SHERIFF'S REPORT:**

Present for this report was Sheriff Scott Story and Jail Administrator Jason Trundy. S. Story presented the following:

1. Job Description revisions for the Lieutenant and Patrol Sergeant positions. "Must have at least five years continuous and uninterrupted..." has been replaced with, "He/she must be able to demonstrate to the Sheriff the ability to manage and supervise personnel through documentation of educations, training and experience." S. Story did not want it to be so limited that he did not have more latitude and options. The Patrol Sergeant position also had a similar situation. The same wording would need to be added to that. When these were originally written, it was not realized how limiting this would be. In doing so, it was his understanding that once this was approved by the Commissioners, it could be posted for 14 days as notification in accordance with union contracts and personnel policy.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded accepting the revisions as presented for these two positions. Unanimous.**

#### **2. JAIL MISSION STUDY RFQ:**

S. Story had sent requests for bid proposals to four consultants: Pulitzer/Bogard and Associates, Luminosity, Cheryl Gallant and SMRT. Only one bid proposal had been received and that was from Cheryl A. Gallant, Inc. S. Story reported that Ms. Gallant has worked for several of the principal organizations as a subcontractor, has previous experience with CAAC and is familiar with County needs. Details of the bid were read. S. Story stated that if this were approved, he would need to set up a meeting with County, and States Needs Committee. Last week S. Story was working on grants, letters of agreement and support from other partners in this venture, etc. to try to get a jump start on the process. S. Story submitted copies of the bid proposal to the Commissioners for review. C. Gallant has worked closely with VOA, the Maine Sheriff's Association, Department of Corrections, etc.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded accepting the proposal from Cheryl Gallant, Inc. at \$125.00 per hour.**

Discussion: S. Story said that she was also Jail Administrator in the Penobscot County Jail at one point so this would also be helpful. **Unanimous.**

S. Story felt that it should be noted that if the Jail were to become a re-entry facility, the inmates will be in the facility, will be incarcerated, will be coupled with a case worker and/or mentor, and will go to the communities that they would normally go back to live in. They will get an exit strategy in Belfast, but will be followed up with in that area. They don't move to Belfast. Some County citizens have expressed concern about this. Commissioner Berry said that he had also heard these concerns. He felt that things needed to be worded carefully and clearly so as to be understood. S. Story said that there really is no other option.

E. Walker, who was now present, asked if the Hallowell Re-entry Center was still in operation. S. Story said it was, but it is a pre-release rather than a re-entry. It is a relatively low risk of recidivism in that facility. Deputy District Attorney Eric Walker, who was now present for the discussion, recommended that S. Story consult with other re-entry facilities to find out statistics of whether people coming out of that facility are moving to that area. S. Story emphasized that the re-entry program would provide tools to help people get their lives back on track and not return to the corrections facility. They will have more structure as they are exiting out.

A. Fowler said she had not heard so much concern about "bad" people entering into the Community, but more that the Correctional Center might be shut down. She emphasized that the County is trying to save jobs, and to "reinvent itself."

S. Story said if the re-entry system falls through and is simply a 72-hour hold, it would be 8-12 people on board and only about five inmates. "The minute the facility is closed altogether, the problem does not go away – it relocates in the D.A.'s office, and the court system. There will be a service without a product. It is a very slippery slope. Belfast, Searsport and Lincolnville will pick up the brunt of the costs. The County right now extends a huge courtesy to the municipalities that we are not legally obligated to do. If an inmate is brought in Friday night and they are sick and have to go to hospital, or needs to go to court, or needs to travel to another facility, the County does the transporting. Once they are arraigned, they are the County's responsibility. Prior to all arraignments, the arresting agency is actually responsible for the person they arrested. The cost to the municipalities if that service went away would be staggering," S. Story stated.

W. Shorey asked if the municipalities are aware of this. S. Story said there are a lot of Towns who benefit from the inmate detail program. The inmates paint, sweep, clean up ball fields, etc. and the Towns would have to do or pay for someone to do this themselves.

W. Shorey brought up the matter of a letter he had asked the County Clerk to draft about "double taxation" in terms of the County citizens paying for the Jail and paying out of the County Budget also for work performed by the Treasurer's and Commissioners staff for the Jail, and W. Shorey said he felt it was a good letter. After the Clerk had spoken with the Sheriff, she spoke with the Commissioners and it was generally felt that this was not the time to bring this up. It was generally felt that it might be wiser to involve all counties. It had been left that the Jail Mission proposal had been worked hard on, and W. Shorey was willing to let this sit for awhile so that it would not endanger

the proposal for the Jail mission change. W. Shorey was only bringing it up now to keep it on the burner and not let it be forgotten. S. Story stated that he felt the Commissioners were completely right in their argument but agreed that it might stand a better chance if more counties were involved in the issue. W. Shorey felt that maybe the State was asking the Commissioners to give up some of their authority and that maybe the County's have more authority that some realize. S. Story said that for him to go back and bring this taxation matter up would not go over well but thought that it might be very appropriate for new voices and faces and the support of a number of counties to bring this back to the table. D. Berry felt that this was a piece in the entire bill that should have been change. S. Story mentioned that there were some fund balance issues that would likely be addressed in July, although he did not think that would have any bearing on this particular issue. He would try to stay on top of things so that the Commissioners would not inadvertently miss an opportunity to bring this matter to the table. He mentioned that Waldo County is very well respected in Augusta, and this is a benefit.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY ERIC WALKER:**

Present for this discussion were Deputy District Attorney Eric Walker and Legal Secretary Carla Rogerson. E. Walker informed the Commissioners that a staffing issue exists. He wished for Carla to speak first. C. Rogerson said she would be out on leave for six to eight weeks from May 6<sup>th</sup> through the end of June and will not be able to be in the office during that time. This will leave the D.A.'s office short-staffed. Registry of Deeds Clerk Amy Keller had filled in for a few weeks recently and this was a tremendous help. She freed up Carla and Karen Knox to get caught up on some of their work. She appeared to enjoy the work, and D. Berry confirmed that she had expressed this. E. Walker said his understanding was that A. Keller would be back to assist the D.A.'s Office during the next round of court sessions. He said he had contacted the Registry of Deeds to alert them to the meeting with the Commissioners, and nobody was able to attend, so he was asking if A. Keller would be able to come back sooner and longer to assist in the D.A.'s office. Commissioner Berry said that after discussions with the other Commissioners, the Register of Deeds, the Human Resources/Payroll Director and the County Clerk, he felt there was a definite short-staffing issue. He had asked for a report to be generated by the Register of Deeds and it appeared that they were busier than anticipated and would, in fact, need that person back in the Deeds Registry at some point. While the Deeds office was slow, it worked out well to have an employee go over to assist in the D.A.'s Office. E. Walker said that it should work out because it is mostly the end of the year that he would not need assistance and Deeds would have that employee for most of that time. It was mostly the first part of the year that A. Keller would be needed. D. Berry felt that County business needed to be operating effectively. He didn't know if someone should be hired part-time or factor another employee in for 2010, or just how to deal with this. He felt that if it would work to have A. Keller go back to the D.A.'s office, this would make the most sense. E. Walker agreed and said that Ms. Keller had learned much quicker than they anticipated. He also added that Victim/Witness Advocate Deborah McAllian had been able to take one week and three days off for a much-needed vacation. He noted that one of the office functions A. Keller had been able to assist with was Restitution.

W. Shorey felt that the County needed to work with the current personnel staffing and the budget for this year and try to make this work until the next budget year. He felt that if the Deeds Office had to be a little short-staffed, that might be the way it would have to work for a bit. The Commissioners felt that the D.A.'s Office might still need assistance in the years to come. A. Fowler felt that under the circumstances, the D.A.'s Office took priority because of the schedule of courts and the nature of the work. E. Walker said that it really was mainly during the "crazier" times that they needed the assistance. W. Shorey recognized that the D.A.'s Office had very defined times that they needed

assistance and hoped that the Deeds Registry would be able to work with that during those times. A. Fowler felt that the D.A.'s Office should add part-time hours in their budget to pay for additional help as needed. D. Berry stated that the Commissioners view the entire County as one unit and if shifting personnel around within the departments needed to be done, this should be understood. W. Shorey agreed that if the County could be efficient while maintaining the current number of employees, that was a good thing. D. Berry said he would speak with the Register of Deeds to explain the need. The explanation would be that County Government must be run as effectively as possible. The Commissioners pay the bill on health insurance and other benefits. It really doesn't matter which department the employees are in.

D. Berry asked B. Arseneau to research how other counties designate their personnel – whether it is designated by individual department or lumped together under the Commissioners. W. Shorey felt that it was important to keep as many employees employed, while keeping things efficient. D. Berry said he would discuss this with the Register of Deeds when she returned from vacation. E. Walker said he hoped that the Register of Deeds knew how appreciative the District Attorney's Office was for the very helpful assistance of this Deeds employee in the D.A.'s office. It was agreed that when A. Keller returned from vacation she would be needed on May 11, 2009 through the end of June.

#### **WALDO COUNTY LOGO SUBMISSION:**

V. Stover showed the Commissioners the submissions from local students for a new County Logo. After reviewing several submissions, the Commissioners voted as follows:

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded tabling this to the May 14, 2009 Commissioners Court Session.** Discussion: There was concern expressed that there needed to be enough time.

**\*\*W. Shorey rescinded his motion. A. Fowler rescinded her second.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded accepting the submission from Erica Koenig, for the top left logo she submitted. Unanimous.**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS CENTER REPORT:**

Present with the Commissioners was Communications Director Owen Smith, who reported the following:

1. The second week of April is National Communicator's Week and O. Smith submitted a proclamation for the Commissioners to sign declaring the second week of April as National Telecommunicators Week and inviting all residents of Waldo County to observe the event.

2. Dispatcher Arthur Butler will have been employed with the County of Waldo 21 years and one week when he retires on April 30, 2009. He spent 11 years with the Sheriff's Department and the remaining years with the Communications Center. His experience and perfectionism have made him a real asset to the Center. A gathering in his honor will be held April 24, 2009 from noon until 4:00 p.m.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded accepting with regret the resignation of Dispatcher Arthur Butler, effective April 28, 2009. Unanimous.**

3. Legislature has directed that a study be done to look at 911 Centers for 2012. O. Smith said he suspected that a Kimball study will be done. The legislation does not address consolidation at all at this point. He noted that both Kennebec and York Counties have lost their PSAPS (Public Safety Answering Points.)

4. O. Smith called to the Commissioners' attention LD 555 and expressed that he felt the Towns in the County area should have a choice as to who will dispatch for them in the event a dispatch is closed.

5. L.D. 1177 deals with a surcharge. O. Smith stated that "the scuttlebutt is that this does not have much of a chance of passing." He noted that the rate increase for 911 will be determined after the budget has passed. NENA and MECCA feel that money is for 911 services PERIOD and should be left there for future generations and maintenance, etc. The future appears that everything will be IPS-based. There is talk that there may only be four centers in the State. The future is unclear but in the meantime Waldo County Regional Communications Center will continue to serve well the citizens of the County.

#### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

Present for this discussion were Facilities Manager K. Nealley and Architect Robert Fenney.

1. District Courthouse Handicap Ramp: Architect Robert Fenney reminded the Commissioners that five or six years ago, a study was performed on all courthouses and areas of concern in terms of ADA compliance were identified and a cost attached to make necessary modifications. The handicap ramp at the University of Maine Extension Office was fixed last year. The one at the District Courthouse needs to be flattened and a handrail added. Originally, to make that ramp work, there would need to be a small retaining wall added with the possibility that a concrete wall would include a column with a covering over the door as an alternate, if there is money.

2. K. Nealley explained that there was some repair needed to the pavement in the parking lot at the District Courthouse. His recommendation was to add this on as an alternate when the handicap space was worked on for the side entrance. A. Fowler asked how much they felt this would cost. R. Fenney thought it was fairly reasonable especially as compared with last year. The paving in the handicap space needs to be graded and repaved. \$25,000.00 has been appropriated and it was recommended to add the skim-coating of the parking lot as an alternate. The portico would be a second alternate. R. Fenney estimated "couple-thousand dollars" to build a portico. The question was whether it should be roof first, paving second or paving first, roof second. It was hoped that the market would be competitive enough to allow both to be done. R. Fenney recommended a bid opening a few days before the Commissioners Court Session for review and recommendation to be in advance of the next Commissioners Court Session. R. Fenney explained that specs will be developed and put out to bid. The Commissioners felt that this should move forward and that they did not need to see the specs prior to sending them out to bid.

3. A. Fowler asked about the stairs leading from the back parking lot behind the District Courthouse, as they are falling apart and are very hazardous especially for women in narrow heels. K. Nealley said he had done some minor repairs already and was planning to patch them up soon. He explained that this was the result of using salt on them during winter months. R. Fenney recommended caulking between the concrete and steel to prevent the salt-water erosion. K. Nealley said he had already fixed the stairs at the Superior Courthouse.

4. Grants are being pursued with the assistance of Cheryl Coats of DRG Specialty Services. C. Coats has stated that the guidelines for the grant development programs have not been developed yet,

so the County should develop a list of projects. Carpenter Associates has done some specs., but K. Nealley thought that perhaps there should be more done such as retrofitting lights, lowering ceilings, etc. The difference would be from doing a few thousand dollars worth of changes, to several thousand dollars to make major changes. A. Fowler felt that she would be hard-pressed to spend any taxpayers' money on the Superior Courthouse. R. Fenney and K. Nealley agreed, but felt that if money was being given away, it would be best to take advantage of it. W. Shorey felt that the funds would likely be 50-75% and should be looked at. If money for the courthouse could be obtained for 25 cents on the dollar, he would be interested. K. Nealley said that the County already was thinking of spending \$150,000.00 on a new boiler, so if that was what was being spent to obtain a grant that would allow for more to be done, it was a good use of those funds. R. Fenney felt that the list would include "subsets" which, depending on the funds, could be fine-tuned. K. Nealley explained that some of this could include the Jail, although he didn't know what the status of the Jail was at this point. He wanted to use funds to install different lighting and also add some insulation upstairs. K. Nealley remarked that the Sheriff's Building was so problematic that it was hard to know where to start. R. Fenney recommended changing the lights in the District Court building, as well. As numbers were being put together, he suggested making comparisons of costs versus saving. K. Nealley said he had software that assisted with that kind of comparison.

W. Shorey commented that counties trying to obtain this funding is quite different than municipalities applying for similar assistance. K. Nealley said the only thing that the County would really be investing was time, and since C. Coats is the grant writer, she could certainly be of help. R. Fenney felt that brainstorming, doing homework ahead of time and creating a list of things to do were important so that once grant applications become available and are announced, having the list ready would make it easier to apply in a timely fashion for those grant funds that become available. B. Arseneau noted that this is what C. Coats had been saying all along. W. Shorey said he felt it would be hard to justify putting \$800,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 into the Superior Courthouse. The Commissioners all agreed that they would rather be able to build another building on the 100-acre property, but doubted it would work out.

5. K. Nealley regretted to report that the County van has issues, and, had he known that, he would not have repaired it for the \$1,000.00 after the recent accident. It is a 1995 model and has 130,000 miles on it. He has been told it will not pass inspection. He had stopped in at Kallis Ford and spoken with them. There is a 2005 that has been sitting on the lot for 9 to 10 months. It has 35,000 miles on it and is selling it for \$10,000.00. K. Nealley asked what could be purchased for \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00 and was told "nothing." W. Shorey suggested that he look at Enterprise or Hertz, as any of their vehicles are for sale if they are being driven. K. Nealley said he would do that. He added that he had been considering the options of either getting a truck with a plow or a van. The Commissioners did not feel that the Facilities Manager should take on plowing. K. Nealley said he would continue his research and would come back before the Commissioners on this matter.

6. K. Nealley informed the Commissioners that he will reach his one-year anniversary on April 30, 2009. The current pay scale does not allow for pay raise until the 7<sup>th</sup> year. He mentioned that the FLSA-exempt and excluded positions are being discussed and suggestions will be addressed at the Department Head level. D. Berry said that the Commissioners had planned on dealing with that during the upcoming budget process. K. Nealley said the Commissioners would be getting help on this because Keith and Michelle had contacted the other counties and researched pay scales for those positions. D. Berry said he had intended to establish a better pay scale for the department heads and



he had been thinking about that the entire time he was working on the pay scales for unions during negotiations. K. Nealley said the data had not been complete, so he and Michelle had obtained that un-gathered information recently and were working on a pay scale. He said he would be “hitting the commissioners up for a raise at some point,” but realized there was no money available this year.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Reporting correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau with Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover taking notes as follows:

1. The County’s Workers’ Compensation Fund audit is complete and the County has received a return premium adjustment in the amount of \$1,537.00.
2. Legal Secretary Carla Rogerson submitted a grant application to Maine Municipal Association for ergonomic equipment and was awarded \$1,066.67. The Commissioners expressed their congratulations and commendation for the initiative taken by Ms. Rogerson on this application.
3. The Midcoast Maine Community Action Board of Directors has invited the Commissioners to attend the annual meeting and dinner on May 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Midcoast Maine Community Action, 34 Wing Farm Parkway in Bath. None of the Commissioners would be able to attend.
4. Health Insurance Administrator Malcolm Ulmer has been researching the matter of increasing the age limit of health insurance coverage for full-time students from age 23 to age 25. It was difficult to find out what the age limit was when the County was insured with AETNA. He explained he the answer he had received to his inquiry was that the stop loss insurer has approved amending the County’s Health Plan to provide a FTS age limit to 25 years effective 04/01/2009. There is no change to the monthly fixed costs or the Health Plan’s aggregate stop loss amount, so the additional cost will be the cost of additional claims submitted by the dependents who will continue their coverage beyond the prior age limit of 23 years. He asked to be notified whether or not the Commissioners support making this change to the Health Plan. The Commissioners felt that they would like to look into this further. After brief discussion of how this would benefit County employees, the Commissioners voted as follows:

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to table this about 23-25 until the May 14, 2009 Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

5. The US Census Bureau has sent notice that between April and July 2009, US Census Employees will be visiting every housing unit in every neighborhood of the community. They will be wearing identification and will be carrying hand-held computers to capture physical addresses and their GPS coordinates.
6. MCCA Executive Director Robert Howe sent notice that on Monday, April 6, 2009, the Criminal Justice Committee voted to send forth the recommendation for \$3.5 million for county jail funding in the FY2010 budget. She noted that all present voted in support, and it is expected that there will be a unanimous vote when all have voted.
7. Caremark RX, Inc. has sent a refund check to the County in the amount of \$1,738.93.

8. A Swanville Citizen who has previously sent letters of concern to the County Commissioners about poverty abatement requests from the Swanville Selectmen has sent two more letters; a copy of one dated September 15, 2008 that was sent to the Selectmen, and one dated April 8, 2009 directed to the County Commissioners. The citizen stated that there were “ongoing problems,” a response from the Commissioners had not been received yet and was requesting a hearing be scheduled by the Commissioners to deal with the Selectmen’s refusal to respond to the citizen’s correspondence on this matter. A. Fowler said she did not believe the Commissioners could force the Town to do anything and asked if the County Clerk had heard anything from the Town of Swanville about these two letters. B. Arseneau said she had not heard from town. A. Fowler felt that nothing could be done until the Commissioners could establish what has been done already up to this point. She offered to contact the Town of Swanville Selectmen to ask the town if they had received a poverty abatement request from the citizen. W. Shorey indicated that he had some contacts and would look into this for the Commissioners. B. Arseneau asked if Commissioner Shorey would like to look at the file, as it was quite thick.

9. Corrections Officer Seth Curra has resigned his full-time employment with the Waldo County Correctional Center, effective April 7, 2009.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded accepting with regret the resignation of Corrections Officer Seth Curra effective April 7, 2009. Unanimous.**

10. Corrections Officer Jennifer Stilkey has resigned her full-time employment with the Waldo County Correctional Center, effective April 9, 2009 but will stay on the roster as a part-time employee.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded accepting with regret the resignation of Corrections Officer Jennifer Stilkey effective April 9, 2009, while noting that she will remain on the part-time roster as a part-time employee. Unanimous.**

11. Corrections Corporal Christopher Loureiro received a pay increase for reaching the sixteen year step from \$17.16 to \$17.42 per hour, effective March 20, 2009. The Commissioners noted this.

12. Vivian Richie, Project Manager of Healthy Waldo County, has stopped by and asked for additional Waldo County Prescription Discount RX cards to take with them the health fairs, etc.

13. The Bureau of Justice Assistance has advised that the local jurisdiction is eligible for Recover Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding. DRG Specialty Services is looking into this opportunity.

14. Palermo citizens Donald and Marguerite Zahoruiko have requested a tax abatement appeal hearing with the County Commissioners. After a quick review of the request, the Commissioners decided to schedule a hearing during the May 19, 2009 Commissioners Court Session.

15. A copy of a letter directed to Senator Weston, State and County Legislative Representatives, the County Commissioners and Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Members from Waldo County General Hospital Executive Director Mark Biscone was received March 20, 2009. In it Mr. Biscone expressed his “complete disbelief that the Health and Human Services Committee voted in favor of cutting Critical Access Hospitals’ reimbursement as well as hospital-based outpatient physician, emergency department physicians, inpatient physicians, nurse practitioners

and physician assistant reimbursement.” He listed the impact to Waldo County General Hospital annually would be a reduction in State and Federal monies of \$1,767,000.00. He further noted that these cuts would mean WCGH would have to implement annual expense reductions of \$4,417,000.00. He implored the recipients of the letter “not to implement these suggested reductions to Critical Access Hospitals and hospital-based practitioner reimbursement as recommended by the Health and Human Services Committee as it will destroy our Maine healthcare system!”

16. B. Arseneau submitted the most recent NACO RX Prescription Discount Card report.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS**

The Commissioners briefly discussed how much they appreciated the Sheriff and Jail Administrator spending countless weeks, days and hours in Augusta working toward Jail Mission changes. A. Fowler said she had sat in on a number of sessions and commented that Sheriff Story is highly respected and that when he speaks, he is listened to. She added that Waldo County is the only Correctional Center trying to “reinvent itself.”

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded entering Executive Session at 12:38 p.m. for union negotiations update according to Title 1 § 405 (D). Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded exiting Executive Session at 1:12 p.m. Unanimous.**

#### **NEXT COURT SESSION:**

The next regularly scheduled Commissioners Court Session will be May 19, 2009 rather than May 12th, as County Clerk Barbara Arseneau will be on medical leave until then. Topics will include a Jail Mission Discussion.

**A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded adjourning the meeting at 1:12 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by *Barbara L. Arseneau*  
Waldo County Clerk